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What to do with the Japanese economy after ABENOMICS

Looking at basic income

From the Heiminkenren lecture

Association of research groups for peace and democracy (Heiminkenren) held a lecture meeting inviting Honda Hirokuni (Professor, Dokkyo University, American economics) at Bunkyo Civic Center in Tokyo on February 29 with participation of about 30 researchers and citizens. At first, Honda showed the transition of the real GDP growth rate of the major capitalist countries over the past century; what they have in common is the long-term stagnation phenomenon except for the postwar reconstruction period (1950-72). After pointing out that poverty, economic disparities, and employment deterioration seen in Japan and the United States, in particular, are caused by companies restraining investment, restraining wages, and disestablishment of employment security as measures against long-term stagnation. He pointed out problems of economic policy by ABENOMICS, monetary easing with poor spill-over effect, blockage of fund supply through banks, a sea of new public-private funds that is a result of fiscal policy that is not based on capital needs or real economy, deadlock of "local revitalization" measures, deepening of the "inclusion crisis" due to the abandonment of fundamental measures for wages and social security.

According to Honda, the key to breaking this impasse is resolution of the "double structure of the economy," that is, the wage disparity between large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which is larger than in advanced European countries and between closed labor market of large enterprises and open one of SMEs, that is, the asymmetric relationship between companies and their controlling structure.

To that end, Honda proposed "Basic Income (BI)," which alleviates the disparities wages and social security through universal and unconditional social benefits. BI enhances the bargaining power of the labor side to form a truly fluid and effective labor market, leads to the revitalization of rural areas through the decentralization of education and care, and further scales the economy harmonizing with the environment. It has a function to largely correct the contradictions of existing capitalism.

Regarding the financial resources necessary for this, Honda explained that, for the

time being, payment of 30,000 yen per month to 40% of the population that accounts for a total of about 17 trillion yen a year, and further 25 to 30 trillion yen for free university tuition, decentralization of nursing and childcare, improvement of working conditions of caregivers and nursery teachers will be required. They can be secured by the tax increase to the wealthy people in the top 30% of income and rearrangement of existing social security such as livelihood protection, public works, various allocation taxes, and national defense budget.

Following the lecture, there was a lively debate with the participants on the relationship between BI and growth and supply-demand balance, government debt overload and national financial discipline, and self-sufficiency of energy and food, and modern monetary theory (MMT). It was a vital and meaningful lecture meeting despite concerns that pneumoniae infection caused by the new coronavirus might spread.
(Matsui Yasutoshi, individual member)

[05-16-02(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.5 May (2020), p. (301) 61

The 23rd CSSC will be held in December

At the request of the national office of JSA, the Tokyo branch undertook the holding of the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (commonly known as 23 *Sogaku* or CSSC, held every other year). It will be held in Bunkyo Ward from December 4th to 6th. With the cooperation of the JSA branches of Kanto Koshinetsu district, we have set up an executive committee and are making preparations (the executive committee chair is Matsunaga Koji, the Tokyo branch representative secretary, with a total of about 25 people).

The main theme is "In search of human dignity and a peaceful and sustainable society: exploring collaboration between scientists and citizens." Under the neo-liberal competition, social disparities are widening and human rights violations are occurring frequently both in the world and in Japan. The hegemonic behavior of the great powers stands out and there is no end to conflicts. Prioritization of profits by enterprises has caused various problems including global environmental destruction. Faced with this reality, we think that scientists and researchers should provide scientific grounds to

meet the urgent demands of citizens, and work together with the citizens in order to realize their wishes. Such will is included in the main theme.

Plans include three special lectures, dozens of subcommittees, exhibitions and poster sessions, music recital, social gatherings, and multiple excursions. Pre-events such as Go competitions will also be held.

23 *Sogaku* (CSSC) is not only one of long tradition events for JSA, but also the biggest event of the year. As well as presenting the results of daily research as an academic research meeting, it is also a place to show the significance of JSA's existence to society through scientific knowledge and various events. You will also get to know and deepen interaction with members of various research areas and age groups of various branches. It would be possible to use this as an opportunity to initiate new members.

We will inform you sequentially at several Circulars in the future. Please look forward to it.

(Sakuma Hidetoshi, Executive Secretary of 23 CSSC General Executive Committee)

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Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Reconstruction Research Committee's past activities and future challenges

JSA Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Reconstruction Research Committee

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Japan Scientists' Association (JSA) set up the Great East Japan Earthquake Reconstruction Research Special Committee, with about 10 members working on nuclear accident problems and disaster recovery reconstruction. The discussion was lively, but topics tended to be dispersed. Therefore, the special committee was divided into a nuclear accident team and a disaster reconstruction team.

The disaster reconstruction research team started preparations for participating in the public forum of the United Nations World Conference on disaster risk reduction held in Sendai City in March 2015. The members consisted of specialists in fields of disaster recovery (disaster recovery, regional economy, regional disaster prevention, housing

recovery, national finance, local finance, coastal resources, etc.).

The symposium was successfully completed with many participants and led to publication in June 2016 as "Verification of great east Japan earthquake recovery" based on the report collection.

After that, the special research committee was abolished and a new "Research Committee for Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster Reconstruction" was established as a loose common research body. It is mainly based on individual research and activity and works on ad hoc common issues.

Since then, we held a subcommittee in JSA Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC) in 2016 Kyoto and 2018 in Okinawa, and have been continuing the research committee to the present day, while adding the presenters in CSSCs as committee members.

In addition, during this period, we planned crowdfunding with the aim of obtaining external funds, but we have not yet applied.

The next issues are how the committee should deal with the Nankai Trough earthquake and large-scale disasters that have become frequent recently.

(Tsunashima Fujio)

[05-16-03(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.5 May (2020), p.62 (302)

University Forum "Academic and Innovation — On the Movement of Revision of the Basic Act on Science and Technology "

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 2nd, "Forum overcoming the crisis of the university and opening up tomorrow" (hereinafter abbreviated as "University Forum") held the 2nd workshop in the Bunkyo Ward Conference Room (Tokyo) (Participation 52 people).

In addition to the symposium, the University Forum holds another research group for in-depth discussions about specified themes. The first meeting was held on "University Autonomy and University Governance" in September 2019. The second time, a report-and-discussion session was held by three people, entitled "Science and Innovation — Around the Movement of revision of the Basic Act of Science and

Technology —."

Sato Iwao, Professor at The University of Tokyo, reported on "Revision of the Basic Act on Science and Technology — Background and Issues —."

Sato attended the "Council for Science, Technology and Innovation" (CSTI), which has been discussing "revision" of the Basic Act on Science and Technology, as an observer. It has been a long-time request of the Science Council of Japan to incorporate humanities into the revision. He said that it was welcome but it had to create major changes in the economy and society through the results produced by creative activities by various actors, including activities aimed at solving social issues.

Next, Nomura Yasuhide (Technology Policy Committee member, the Japan Scientists' Association) reported "Trends in Science and Technology and Basic Plan for Science and Technology — Focusing on 'Innovation Ecosystem' and 'University Reform' —. "

He pointed out that the "revision plan" that incorporates "creation of innovation" strengthens the national control over industry-academia-government collaboration. Then, tracing in detail the flow of science and technology policy, he talked about the risk that university reform will be promoted for that purpose.

Finally, Hyodo Tomohiro (Professor Emeritus, Ritsumeikan University), who reported "What is innovation for science," pointed out the danger of the national power controlling academics under the Basic Act on Science and Technology in the name of social contribution. After that, we had a discussion with the participants.
(Ihara Satoshi, Tokyo branch)

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Efforts of public-private partnership in Odawara City

— Toward local self-sufficiency of energy —

JSA Kanagawa Branch

At a branch meeting on November 14, 2019, the author made the following report entitled "Efforts of Public-Private Collaboration in Odawara City — Toward Regional Self-sufficiency in Energy —."

Odawara City is located in the western part of Kanagawa prefecture, where a panorama of forests, rice paddies, rivers, and sea is spreading out, and has fostered a livelihood and culture in harmony with the natural environment. We are aiming for the realization of “autarky city”.

The trigger to start the planning was the nuclear power plant accident caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. At that time, we felt the importance of distributed energy sources through planned blackouts and detection of radioactive cesium from special products. Since then, we have been promoting efforts toward regional self-sufficiency of energy through public-private partnerships. Based on the social situation, we have promoted the creation of local power sources such as mega solar projects of citizen participation type, the construction of the local power supply system, and the VPP (Virtual Power plant). We have been stepping up the efforts through public-private partnerships that maximize the use of local renewable energy such as power plant business. Last year, in consideration of the international trend of EV shift, we have started with a private company to build a decarbonized regional transportation model that incorporates EV utilization as a “moving storage battery”, which will become a component of regional energy infrastructure in the future.

Through these efforts toward a carbon-free society, Odawara City has decided to aim to achieve virtually zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. Climate change countermeasures are a common theme that should be tackled by the national government, local governments, businesses, and individuals, and local self-sufficiency in energy is used as a means to promote global warming countermeasures.

We received many opinions and questions on the day. We look forward to your continued guidance.

(Endo Takae, Energy Policy Promotion Division, Odawara City)

[05-16-04(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.5 May (2020), p. (303) 63

Gathering for the 87th Constitution and Peace

“Campaigns against the contents and problems of the Abe/LDP constitutional reform”

Miyazaki Branch

This gathering was held at Miyazaki Civic Plaza Gallery from 10:00 am on February 11, 2020 (Tuesday), co-sponsored by the JSA Miyazaki Branch and the Miyazaki Democratic Lawyers Association. Shimizu Masahiko, Professor of Nippon Sport Science University (Constitution) gave a lecture entitled “Constitutional amendment draft made by prime minister Abe/LDP (Liberal Democratic Party), and theoretical dispute and campaigns against them.” There were 90 participants.

The main theme of the lecture was Prime Minister Abe's Article 9 “Kaken” (adding to the Constitution) theory. Cleverly this draft pulls in the Legislation Bureau of the Diet and the Secretariat of the Examination Board Commission on the Constitution, the deletion of the “minimum necessary level”, the addition of “national security”, and the construction of the exemption to apply provisions of Article 9, paragraph 2.

He pointed out precisely and clearly the problems of the Article 9 draft. At the same time, he explained the danger of “Constitutionalism-based constitutional reform theory” by Yamano Shiori, member of the House of Representatives.

After the lecture, we moved to Q and confirmed the argument of the lecture with discussion about the opposition parties’ unifications. Shimizu gave answers to the questions and then has proposed three general challenges: “Do not let the constitutional council deliberate,” “Do not propose constitutional reform,” and “Create a unification toward the lower house election.”

He also revealed his three challenges: “Do not end with self-satisfaction (invite another person to participate in the meeting)”, “work with young people”, “Do not self-regulate, do not wither, do not hesitate.”

Finally, there were speeches from the Security Law Unconstitutional Lawsuit Mitazaki Meeting, Nyutabaru Base Roaring Lawsuit, Citizens’ Unification Miyazaki, Article 9 Peace Walk , and International Women's Day Miyazaki Meeting. (Seki Shuichi, Miyazaki Branch)

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Iwate Branch Academic Lecture “What is Genome Editing?”

— What is necessary so that a profitable technology is useful? —

In the summer of 2019, the stimulating news was announced that it was difficult to obligate to label genome-edited food products. On January 24, 2020, the Iwate branch held a lecture meeting under the above title with 12 participants (9 JSA members), where a lecture was given by Yasukawa Hiroo, Professor, Department of Science Education, Faculty of Education, Iwate University, who is conducting research on pathogenic bacteria by DNA manipulation.

Genome editing is a technology that mimics the immune system of microorganisms, and allows to pinpoint a targeted gene to make small changes (mutations), which is no different from naturally occurring mutations. In other words, the organisms created by this technology cannot be distinguished from mutants (such as excellent varieties that happened in nature) even if the traces of mutations were confirmed.

In March 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare approved the distribution of some foods developed by genome editing (such as red sea bream with good meat) only by notification. However, the condition is that the introduced nucleic acid (or its duplicate) does not remain. Since notification is voluntary and display is not obligatory, some consumers do not want to eat them, and the issue is how to properly convey information.

Although this technology has a great impact on food, medical care and the environment, there are still issues that must be resolved both technically and socially.

I was got the impression that there was an easy-to-understand expression of how mutations occurred, and honest views were expressed, so I thought that the importance and seriousness of things were well communicated. At the same time, I wanted the technology to be very useful, and at the same time I was also wondering how to achieve sound development and safe use. The social rules and ethics of specialists should be essential. Considering the social customs for regulation and consumers, it is requested to have sufficient discussions with people in other fields, and also in order to avoid being swayed by consumers the minimum solid understanding is necessary.

For this purpose, I strongly felt that it is important to raise a group of researchers with a broad base, not based on simple ‘choice and concentration’.

(Takei Takaaki, Iwate Branch)

Lectures on “Globalization of the CONSTITUTION of JAPAN as demanded by the Constitution”

Co-hosted by JSA and the Scientists’ Association for the Article 9

On March 14 2020, the above-mentioned lecture was held at Chuo University, Korakuen Campus with 40 people attending.

Following the opening remarks, Shida Yoko (Professor, Musashino Art University, Constitutional Studies) gave a report on “Official Support for Art and Freedom of Expression-From — the Constitutional Perspective”. Next, Nagahashi Shigeki (Professor, Tokai University, Constitutional Studies) reported on " Dispatch of Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East and the Current trends of the Constitutional revision."

Kiyosue Aisa (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Muroran Institute of Technology, Constitutional and Family Law, Gender Law) gave a lecture on "the significance of the right to live in peace based on experience in West Asia" as follows :

She has ever visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip once or twice a year and interacted with Palestinian friends. For the statement to the Court of appeal about the lawsuit of the unconstitutionality of National Security Laws in November last year, she wrote in the plaintiff’s statement, “I consider that taking the concept of peace to be abstract is to ridicule the human dignity of those who cannot afford water and food to survive in a society devastated by war.” Peace is a concrete little happiness, such as eating and drawing with family and close people. “To live” means to be “free” together with both “hope” and “dignity” provided.

Based on the thought of an Afghan friend, who lost his life due to a bomb terrorism, she published a picture book entitled “Even if the World Forgets Here — The Story of Afghan Woman Farzana” (Jurosha publishing Company), which describes about an Afghan woman fighting for human rights after overcoming fierce violence and an unimaginable predicament.

The right to live in peace of the Constitution of Japan is stipulated in its preamble, "We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.” Here, that "we" are the Japanese people, and that the enjoyments of

the right to live in peace, are the "all peoples of the world", including the people of Afghanistan, Syria, and Palestine, who are full of fear and want.

The principle of grassroots NGOs operating abroad is to build trust with local communities which are quickly destroyed when the military element is visible. Non-military, non-armed, non-violent principles protect one another's lives. The Liberal Democratic Party's proposed Constitutional revision violently crushes the grassroots connections of NGOs overseas that have been built through steady efforts based on the preamble of the Constitution and the spirit of Article 9.

Finally, Ihara Satoshi, Secretary-General gave a greeting to the lecturer, saying "In this difficult time, we had a wonderful gathering. I applaud Kiyosue who gave an inspiring lecture." The meeting was closed with a big applause.
(Goto Masatoshi, Kanagawa Branch)

[06-17-02(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.6 June (2020), p. (365) 61

Symposium "Thinking about the future of university entrance examinations"

JSA Kinki area

The symposium was held at Kyoto Education and Culture Center near Kyoto University Hospital on March 29, 2020, amidst the corona virus outbreak. About 50 people participated.

Hato Yumi (Professor of Kyoto Institute of Technology, Applied Linguistics) gave a lecture entitled "What to learn from collapse of the 2020 English entrance exam reform". The efforts to acquire the English speaking ability requires abundant input (linguistic information to be seen or heard), but the condition is not satisfied. The failure of the entrance examination reform is because some "experts" in the center of power is overreliant on private examinations, simplified the problems in high schools, and played with the armchair theory. Japan's current policy on English language education has clearly failed. Responsibility is not in the students or teachers, but in the government and the education ministry, which can only do stupid things. It is an urgent task to newly appoint the researchers and educators who have played a central role in the reform.

Following the lecture, a panel discussion was held by university professors, high school teachers, and active high school students and their parents. From each standpoint, the fresh reality swayed by the reform of today's university entrance examination was reported. The current high school education, which is saturated in entrance examination measures, is far from the educational philosophy that aims to form a rich personality. I keenly felt that. Ueda Takeo, Professor of Hanazono University (educational administration) denounced Japan's education of today as being largely controlled by the boss of the business world and the Ministry of Education is subcontracting. They (the business world and the center of power) are striving hard to raise a handful of "excellent" students and send them to a "highly selective" university in order to rebuild the depressed Japanese technology.

After participating in the symposium, I was shown that Japan's education has deteriorated further worsely since the Basic Act on Education was amended and national universities were turned into National University Corporation. I strongly felt again that there would be no educational rebirth unless there was a separation of the power and/or right of education in addition to the Judiciary, Legislature and Administration.

(Sokawa Yoshihiro, Kyoto Branch)

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<p><i>Activities of the Human Rights Protection Committee for the Elderly and the Disabled</i></p> <p><i>JSA Human Rights Protection Committee</i></p> <p><i>for the Elderly and the Disabled Persons</i></p>
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<p>The above Committee has created two special features so far in this journal (JJS) on the main theme of nursing care (2011 and 2017 Issues). The next issue will be the November 2020 issue, which features a third special issue from the perspective of “isolation and lifelong development of the elderly”.</p>
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<p>The Human Rights Protection Committee has consistently discussed various issues surrounding the elderly and the disabled from the perspective of social welfare labor. That is because the universal role of social welfare work is not only the practical action</p>
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on the elderly and the disabled but also the work to reach out to the local communities and the various social welfare systems so that their structures could be transformed from the viewpoints of human rights protection and lifelong development guarantee.

In other words, it is the social transformation that integrates the life problems of each person into social problems, creates public opinion and develops into a civic movement as care movement. At the forefront social welfare workers face the elderly and the disabled who need daily life support.

However, recent reduction of social security systems, reduction of social security costs, and the progress of the social welfare market have called for the efficient production of results and profits from social welfare labor. Accordingly, The values of social welfare workers as social welfare workers are changing. I feel a sense of extreme danger.

In October last year, This committee launched the "Social Welfare Labor Research Group" centering on researchers, field workers and full-time labor union peoples residing in Kansai.

We would like to make it clear again the actual state of the transformation of social welfare labor, what it is causing, where the clue to its solution is, and to find them as soon as possible. In the future, I would like to discuss this issue in the paper.

(Kogami Keita)

[06-17-03(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.6 June (2020), p. 62 (366)

Report on Kagoshima Chapter 2019 3rd "The Journal of Japanese Scientists" Review Meeting

On Friday, March 6, 2020, the above-mentioned "The Journal of Japanese Scientist" review meeting was held at Kagoshima University. The paper discussed this time was Toribata Yoichi's "Problems concerning the introduction of casinos-the various business models of IR-type casinos" in the special iIssues, in the Special Feature, "Problems of attracting casinos", October 2019 issue of "The Journal of Japanese scientists". Matsumoto Toshiya (Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Kagoshima International University) reported the problems.

First of all, Matsumoto said that the "Act on Development of Specified Integrated Resort Districts " was enacted in July 2018, and the illusion that "it is not a casino but an IR" was intentionally spread, and multiple local governments were raising their names. After reporting, following the paper, (1) economic meaning of gambling, (2) gambling as commercial business, (3) business model of IR casino, (4) problem of conflict with regional economy, and (5) The possibility of IR without casino, were also discussed.

In the exchange of opinions among the participants (12 people), they said ; "sense of justice" of the people has diminished as the times have changed, the attitude toward "gambling is evil" has decreased, but instead it has become a leisure sensation. It was pointed out that the casino was being built in the inside of the great moral cause of economic growth strategy, what to think about the relationship with public gambling such as horse racing and pachinko was problem. Furthermore, there was an opinion that not only the viewpoint of the casino as an evil bet but also the effort to make people understand the mechanism and problems of the business model of IR is required.

In this meeting, the casino issue, that Kagoshima had never paid attention to, was taken up as one of the highlights of today's Japanese economy. Because it was the issue at the recent corruption cases of Japanese Government. The participants were able to deepen their understandings on casinos thanks to Matsumoto's materials about the casino, clarifications about underlying problems as well as subsequent discussions between Matsumoto and the audience. After the evaluation meeting, we held a gathering of individual member groups and exchanged opinions on future activities.

(Sonoya Takashi, Kagoshima Branch)

[06-17-03(2)] JJS Vol.55, No.6 June (2020), p. 62 (366)

Japanese Democracy and Peace Constitutional Thoughts

— From the 2020 2.11 meeting —

“The Liaison Committee for protection of freedom of thought and religion against “Foundation Day”, attended by the Japan Scientists’ Association, together with historical research groups, the Constitutional Conference, the Tokyo-Prefecture

Teachers and Staff Union, etc., was held on February 11, 2020. Rally was held at Nihonbashi Public Hall in Tokyo. About 200 people attended.

Kato Keiki (Hitotsubashi University, History) in the first lecture "Understanding the past, present, and future of Japan and the Korean Peninsula" explained as below. The unreasonable Korean bashing is spreading at the root of the Korean Peninsula invasion and colonial rule. There is a lack of remorse to the issue, and the issue should be seen from the perspective of "serious violation of human rights and dignity of people's dignity." In response to the allegation by the Japanese Government, the individual has the right to claim, but the apology and compensation have not been settled". In addition, Kato introduced the prewar colonial rule cases on the Korean Peninsula, which he has researched and investigated. He has been conducting history research, by reviewing the modern history. He looks at the history education from the perspective of people via critical verifications of modern history as a whole. He concluded as "The quality of democracy should be questioned. We should expand our opportunities for learning (the history) together."

Chisaka Jun (Secretary-General of the Japanese Peace Commission) gave a lecture on "The Korean Peninsula Crisis" in the second lecture. He talked about the killing of Iran's commander, and the Self-Defense Forces to the Middle East three years ago and "Security Constitution 9 amendment and the expansion of the bloody alliance." This country is exposed to the danger of participating in war under the Laws to Perform Wars (Laws for National Security) at any time by touching the troops, and in order to build a military system, therefore, a military budget of over 5 trillion yen, the largest in history for six consecutive years, was set. He warned the Abe administration, which develops "risk sharing" with the US military and "bilateralization of security." Besides, Henoko new base construction problems, the Kawasaki City "Shinyuri Film Festival" that repelled the attack on the documentary movie "Main Battlefield", the problem of introducing the English language examinations by private company to the university entrance examination, etc. were also reported by each representative of subjects." We will create a society in which the principles of the Constitution live while looking at the peace of Asia and the world beyond the recognition of the history."

(Matsui Yasutoshi, Tokyo Branch Individual Member)

Individual member, report on field work in the spring of 2020 "Otoko wa Tsurai yo Tora-san" Tour

The field work for individual members of the Tokyo branch was held in the spring of 2020 on March 21, when COVID-19 had been spreading. We had such a unique theme for this fieldwork. It is a project to commemorate the screening of the 50th movie "Tora-san" series "Okaeri, Tora-san" (Welcome Home, Tora-san).

We walked along the streets of Katsushika and Shibamata. A total of 20 people, including some of the members' families participated. The general guide is Mr. Kudo Yoshihiro, a former chairman of the Tokyo-Prefecture Teachers and Staff Union.

We gathered at "Shibamata" station on Keisei Kanamachi Line and walked around the shopping street in front of Taishakuten-mae, being guided by Kudo. We not only visited the store that became the model of "Toraya", but also we walked along spots that were the backgrounds for many of the movie scenes. We took a peek into the temple and visited the Taishakuten ("Daikyouji Temple"), where "Gozen-sama" is located. After that, we moved to Yamamoto's house (a registered tangible cultural property of Katsushika-ku, Japanese and Western eclectic architecture and Japanese gardens) for a break. In addition, I heard from Kudo about the charms of the movie series "Tora-san" series, from the first series. After that, we visited "Tora-san Memorial Museum" and "Yamada Yoji Museum", then moved to "Yagiri no Watari" (ferry route between the riverbank) along the Edo River, and broke up there.

It was a day when we reconfirmed the charms of Tora-san, who got dropped out of the 'society', He easily fell in love, but always ended up in just one-sided love. We reconfirmed love and kindness of the people living in this Tokyo downtown area. It was a day when we started expecting a next Tora-san series.

Kudo also told us about the "school and education" view depicted in Tora-san's movies.

On the handouts given at the starting of the tour, posters of all the past 50 "Otoko wa Tsurai yo" movies are printed in color — such a valuable stuff —, thanks to the coordinator Mr.Kawakami's hardwork.

(Sasano Takenori, Tokyo Branch)

Female member of Tokyo branch

"Hazuki no Kai" New Year Party

JSA Tokyo Branch

On February 11, 2020 (Tuesday/holiday), at the Komazawa University, we held the “Hazuki no Kai, New Year's gathering 2020” of female members of the Tokyo branch. We asked Aneha Aki (Professor, Komazawa University) and Otake Midori, member of the JSA Female Researcher/Engineer Survey Team. Approximately 20 people participated.

Aneha claims that the idea of Father working outside and mother taking care of domestic matters still firmly stays, in spite of Article 24 of the Constitution. She talked about women's difficulties today and Swedish amendment to the sex crimes law, emphasizing the significance of individual dignity and gender equality.

Aneha reported that historically the mechanism had been firmly established by the patriarchal image of ‘housewife of being a protector for the household. Men and women have been hindered from individual freedom of living on their way. Aneha explained the situation of Sweden in detail, which has the world highest rate of men’s participation in housework and family care. She especially described Sweden’s revision of sex offense law, which had claimed that that all sexual acts without the manifestation of 'Yes' were illegal. On the other hand, in Japan, even after the revision of the penal code, there is a lot to learn, as the perpetrator can be acquitted unless the victim has an evidence of having been "assaulted" and "intimidated".

Otake's report entitled “The actual situation of female researchers with precarious work: An interim report of the qualitative survey results regarding female researchers with precarious employment” describes the actual situation of such researchers, which has been increasing in recent years. This is an attempt to clarify such workers situations through a qualitative survey using an individual interview format. This survey also reveals that precarious employment has spread more than ever and is standing as an obstacle to the career development of female researchers in the interim report stage.

After closing the session, a social gathering was held at a Chinese restaurant near the venue, and we had a friendly discussion with the impressions of the New Year's party and the recent status report from each of the participants. Aneha has been studying abroad in Sweden since April. We are looking forward to seeing the fruit of her studies.

(Kinugawa Kiyoko, Tokyo Branch)

[07-18-01] JJS Vol.55, No.7 July (2020), p. (421)53

First Nationwide JSA online Symposium held

Academic Symposium "National Control over Science and Culture"

On April 19, 2020, an academic symposium entitled "National Control over Science and Culture" was held. The amendment to add the "promotion of innovative creations" to the Basic Act on Science and Technology was submitted to the Diet during this period. Last year, the exhibition "After 'Freedom of Expression'?" at the Aichi Triennale was suspended. Such affairs make us conscious that authoritarian control and intervention over science and culture seems to have been reinforced. Upon recognition of this, the Academic Affairs Department of JSA Science and Technology Policy Committee held this symposium in order to analyze critically the current situation related to the correlation between national strategies and academic and cultural issues.

Mr. Yasuhide Nomura (JSA Science and Technology Policy Committee) reported his analysis about the amendment draft of the Basic Act on Science and Technology. He pointed out that such an amendment would change the principle of the Basic Act and make science and technology subordinate to "innovative creation". Concerning humanities and social sciences, he was afraid that these fields would be mobilized to encourage "innovative creation". The JSA national executive committee and the JSA Science and Technology Policy Committee had already issued a joint statement on March 25, stating that "we oppose the submitted amendment of the Basic Act on Science and Technology."

The report of Ms. Yoko Shida (Professor, Musashino Art University) was titled "Public-Support for Art and Freedom of Expression". Referring to the case of the Aichi Triennale, she stressed that the observation of "freedom of expression" and "respect for artists' independence" by the

government is important. Both main principles are confirmed in the Basic Act on Culture and Arts.

The contents discussed in this symposium will be published in the December issue of "The Journal of Japanese Scientists". The recorded video will be released on the JSA's web-site in the coming days.

Incidentally, this was the first online-style symposium attempted by the JSA anywhere in the nation. Though such a measure was unavoidable as we endeavor to contain the spread of COVID-19. There were 30 participants, and we all embraced the idea that we should "turn misfortune into a blessing." We regard it as a success in regards to content and participation. From the meeting organizer's view, some merits and demerits of the online symposium became clearer. Its advantages are: that organizers are not exhausted from reserving conference rooms, that participants need not visit the venue and therefore save time and money, that they can communicate with each other with chat-function and pose real-time questions, and so on. It remains to be reconsidered how the chair should manage many utterances from participants and to what extent participants are limited (members only or open to all). Complaint that non-face-to-face meeting lacks something or that there is no social gathering is probably not an essential but a habitual problem. Trial and error will continue, but holding online symposiums will become the trend in the coming years. We are willing to take advantage of this style actively.

(Tarao Mitsunori, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology)

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***Request to stop nuclear power plant operation during corona disaster
Fukui branch members' activities***

The infection by COVID-19 has spread to about 200 countries around the world and has become a pandemic (a global epidemic). Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and his cabinet members required people to "stay home voluntarily" to avoid "3 Cs" (confined spaces, crowded places and close contact). However, the most important scientific measures to treat and prevent COVID-19 fell behind. Without any prospects for end of epidemic, the public feels more and more anxious.

In spite of such a situation, six nuclear reactors are in operation at the time on April 30, 2020; two in Oi Nuclear Power Plant and one in Takahama (Fukui Prefecture)

owned by the Kansai Electric Power, two in Genkai Nuclear Power Plant (Saga Prefecture) and one in Sendai (Kagoshima Prefecture) owned by the Kyushu Electric Power.

On May 1, 2020, members of the JSA Fukui branch who are executives in the Fukui prefectural liaison council of anti-nuclear inhabitants movement handed a document "In the very moment of COVID-19 disaster we request the suspension of three nuclear power plants" to the Kansai Electric Power Company and Fukui Prefectural Government.

On May 8, the third reactor of Oi Nuclear Power Plant will begin a periodical inspection obligated every 13 months (in fact, postponed for several months). For this purpose, about 3,600 workers (of which about 900 are from outside the prefecture) were planned to work within the nuclear power plant. About the working condition, clearly there is typical "3 Cs" and our document required both of reactor operation to stop and to postpone the periodical inspection. It also requested to hold a public meeting for the explanations of the circumstances through which inhabitants can be informed about prevention of infection spread. Additionally, it insisted that protective clothing and equipment provided for the foreseen periodical inspection of reactor should be used for medical workers currently.

While some self-employed persons are suffering from economic shrinkage resulted from self-restraint under COVID-19, the Abe administration persists in its nuclear energy policy and promotes restart of reactors, and gives priority to big business aids rather than to human lives of the nation is unreasonable. It is terrible to assume a multiple disaster in which a nuclear incident would occur simultaneously under the situation of COVID-19 infection.

(Yamamoto Fujio, Secretary General of Fukui Branch)

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Activities of the JSA Food Problems Research Committee

JSA Food Problems Research Committee

The 2019 study assembly prepared an original questionnaire for growers to clarify the current situation and problems of suburban agriculture. Specifically, the Funabashi Agricultural Products Supply Center in Chiba Prefecture and this Research Committee, which pursues food and agricultural practices from the consumers' view, collaborated and aimed to grasp the current situation of growers of the Supply Center and to consider the ideal way of suburban agriculture.

For this purpose, based on the present situations of agriculture in the current circumstances of employment, the questionnaire consists of eleven questions; workforce structure and farmland area, worthwhileness in agriculture, relationship with Funabashi Agricultural Products Supply Center, interrelation with CO-OP members and consumers, own perspective of agriculture, wishes, free opinions, and so on. The implementation was delayed due to the two typhoon damages in the last fall, but we could complete distribution and collection of the questionnaire papers by the end of February this year, and began input work in March.

Again, the COVID-19 infection hindered Center's activities. The check of the aggregated data and the consultation on the cross tabulation were interrupted, and it became impossible to start the discussion about analysis. We hope to resume discussions with the Center and the Committee as soon as possible, analyze the questionnaire from many angles, create a report on the ideal way of suburban agriculture including suggestions for growers and the Center, hold a report session at the Center, and to feed back the research results.

On the other hand, we organized a subcommittee "Thinking about the roles of Japan's food and agriculture and the metropolitan area" at the 20th Tokyo Science Symposium in 2019 and reported on the themes; "Japan-US trade negotiations and food safety, prospect for 'food and agriculture' control by multinational corporations", "The present situation and problems of genome-manipulated foods", "Protection of the Japanese pig raising from 'pig cholera' and 'African pig cholera' ", and present situations and problems of local food production by CO-OP".

In the 23rd CSSC (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention) scheduled for December 2020, we will hold a subcommittee on "Consider about the ideal way of food and agriculture." We hope to pose the problem which has been revealed by a survey of the Funabashi Agricultural Products Supply Center, to paraphrase it on the context of

the current situation and future of suburban agriculture in general, and to discuss as a whole.

(Nishimura Ichiro, Chairman, Food Problems Research Committee)

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150 people at the National Symposium Yokohama against casino "No need for casino in Yokohama or anywhere in Japan"

In the afternoon of February 23, 2020, the ANTI-CASINO NET (National Liaison Council against Casino Gambling Stadium) and the Yokohama Liaison against casino attraction co-sponsored a national symposium against casino, held at the prefectural center hall, with 150 participants.

Daimon Mikishi (Japanese Communist Party, member of the House of Councilors), Hatano Kimie (Japanese Communist Party, member of the House of Representatives), and Mamaya Yuichi (Constitutional Democratic Party, member of the House of Councilors) appeared. Daimon said, "Hokkaido, Chiba and Kitakyushu have stopped attracting casinos, and the tide has changed. In the Diet, we are doing our best together with other opposition parties."

Matsuoka Yasuki, a lawyer of the Kanagawa Bar Association, gave a lecture on "Problems of Casino Practice Law and our Future". Mr. Okawa Takashi, a lawyer and a Kanagawa citizen ombudsperson, entitled "Struggle against Yokohama Casino" and said, "The concept of Yokohama Casino has four characteristics, i.e. (1) the scale is larger than Osaka, Singapore, etc., (2) Located in the center of city, only 1.5 km from the city hall, (3) People living and working in the port area are resisting, and (4) They ignore the public's will against the casino. Seeing from the data that only 1% of customers with severe addiction contribute 60% of sales in the casino, gambling addiction is not the "by-product" of the casino business, but the "major component". Let's proceed with a referendum, mayor recall, and fighting for the mayor's election."

After that, the Tomakomai citizens' group against casino attraction, the Osaka network on casino problems, the stop casino! Nagasaki Prefectural Network, Wakayama Network on casino problems, the No Casino! Tokyo Liaison, the No Casino network in

Koto Ward and the Yokohama Liaison against casino attraction reported their efforts one after another.

Niisato Koji, the representative of the National Liaison Council, said that the Yokohama movement is the key point of the anti-casino movement, and also proposed to exchange information nationwide and promote the movement. At the end, everyone in the hall put up the slogan “No need for casino anywhere in Japan!” and called it.

(Goto Masatoshi, Kanagawa Branch)

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Report of JSA Fukuoka Branch on “Proposal for preventing the spread of new coronavirus infection”

I am writing this manuscript at the end of April, without any forecast regarding the prevalence of COVID-19 in the middle of June 2020 when this text reaches readers. Various discussions were held on the mailing list about COVID-19 at the JSA Fukuoka Branch. Of course, there was a question that "Is it okay for JSA to do nothing?", and the "proposals" were examined based on the springboard of Miyoshi, a secretary of JSA Fukuoka Branch. We discussed and summarized it at the branch secretary meeting on April 6, and submitted it to the government of Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture and Japan. See the URL:

<http://jsa-fukuoka.sakura.ne.jp/topics/files/e94a87ce89e57d20a6e2f28ccd2060dc-5.html>

There were proposals such as "the asymptomatic infected person and the mildly ill person should have appropriate accommodation facilities such as a hotel secured by the local government and accommodated there." "Never let them go home just because they are the asymptomatic or mildly ill." However, as of April 16th (Thursday), when various knowledge was obtained in dealing with foreign countries such as South Korea, the decision was made by the national government regarding the task force headquarters, and there was still a policy of "mildly ill person with no need to medical treatment shall be cared at home". Various subsequent cases highlight the problem of the national policy in dealing with the characteristics of domestic infections and sudden changes in the symptoms of mildly ill persons. In addition, in the proposal, it is naturally pointed

out that "systems for PCR testing and antibody testing should be expanded". There are many similar indications, and the response of the national government has been delayed so far.

The proposal also includes "we need medium- to long-term measures to prevent the spread of infection and economic compensation," "we shouldn't control the speech based on an emergency declaration," and "we must stop the operation of dangerous nuclear power plants." I hope that things will have improved as of June.

(Kobayakawa Yoshihisa, Secretary General of Fukuoka Branch)